

## MONTHLY NOTICES

OF THE

## ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

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No. 3

Sir FRANK DYSON, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S., VICE-PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

George Beaver Croucher, F.R.G.S., Principal Grimsby Navigation School and Technical School for Fishermen, Grimsby ;  
Thomas Henry Dean, Edenthorpe, Anderton Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham ;

Algernon Charles Gifford, M.A., Wellington College, Wellington, New Zealand ;

John G. Howarth, B.A., Science Master of Reigate Grammar School, Dane's Dyke, Reigate, Surrey ;

Harold Jeffreys, B.A., M.Sc., Isaac Newton Student, St. John's College, Cambridge ;

James Knight, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.E., F.C.S., F.G.S., Royal Philosophical Society, Glasgow ;

John Earle Maxwell, 84 Dartmouth Road, Cricklewood, N.W. ;

Clive Nossiter, Acting First Assistant, Perth Observatory, Western Australia ; and

William Marshall Smart, B.A., B.Sc., Trinity College, Cambridge,

were balloted for and duly elected Fellows of the Society.

The following candidate was proposed for election as a Fellow of the Society, the name of the proposer from personal knowledge being appended :—

William Blastall Wilkinson, Lieut. R.N.R., H.M.S. *Encounter*, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia (proposed by E. B. Simpson-Baikie).

Thirty-one presents were announced as having been received since the last Meeting, including, amongst others:—

Regimento do Estrolabio e do Quadrante: Tractado da Spera do Mundow. Reproduction facsimile, presented by the Portuguese Minister of Public Instruction.

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*The Total Eclipse of the Sun, 1914 August 21.* By the Secretary,  
Joint Permanent Eclipse Committee.

(Communicated by the Joint Permanent Eclipse Committee.)

The central line of the Total Eclipse of 1914 August 21 extended from Greenland through Norway, Sweden, and Russia, to Persia. In Sweden and Russia the duration of totality was a little over two minutes, and meteorological data indicated reasonable chances of fine weather on the day of eclipse, especially in South Russia.

In view of the convenient location of this eclipse, and in consideration of the numerous problems which can only be attacked on such occasions, the Joint Permanent Eclipse Committee was of opinion that at least three stations should be occupied. The Astronomer Royal and Professor Newall early announced their intention of sending out expeditions from the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, and the Solar Physics Observatory, Cambridge, respectively, and it was resolved that these should be supplemented, if possible, by an expedition under the auspices of the Committee, with the aid of the Government Grant Fund.

After consultation with Dr. Backlund, the Imperial Astronomer for Russia, it was arranged that the Committee's expedition should be located at Kiev, the Greenwich party at Minsk, and the Cambridge party at Theodosia in the Crimea. It was originally intended that the Kiev observers should be Professor Fowler and Mr. W. E. Curtis of the Imperial College, South Kensington, with Major Hills as volunteer observer, for one of the series of observations; the Rev. Father Cortie, with Rev. Father O'Connor of Stonyhurst College as volunteer observer, for another series. Eventually, however, difficulties arose in connection with the admission of Fathers Cortie and O'Connor into Russian territory, and it became necessary to modify the original plans. The Stonyhurst party accordingly went to Hernösand in Sweden.

The eclipse was successfully observed at Minsk and Hernösand, but observations at Theodosia were unfortunately prevented by clouds. The Kiev party did not leave England so early as the others, and difficulties arising from the outbreak of war led to the abandonment of the expedition.

The thanks of the Committee are due to Dr. Backlund and the Russian Imperial Government for the special facilities granted